

Daniel Ellsberg at FFF Conference, Part 8 of 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6L48z7l9xmw> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6L48z7l9xmw>)

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Daniel Ellsberg on "Iran and Iraq: The Need for Pentagon Papers" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Daniel Ellsberg was born in Detroit in 1931. After graduating from Harvard in 1952 with a B. A. summa cum laude in Economics, he studied for a year at King's College, Cambridge University, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Playlist of Ellsberg's lecture: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=5FFB8C4C61A02CF6

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I don't happen to think that's the case so I'm still very worried about it. I think there is a significant probability high above zero that in the next 18 months we will see this president decide to launch an attack or respond to some provocation and attack by the Israelis or something by a terror attack or something and go after Iran with even greater catastrophic effects than the attack of Iraq and third I've been describing most of this time a real crisis to our Constitution now I don't have but I've pretty much indicated where I think that is if someone were to say that crisis is over it's not a crisis now the Democrats have accepted it we're going to have a precedent for years for this stuff it's not being opposed you'll be hard to to oppose that it's too late. Chalmers Johnson thinks that I think he's saying in effect what EP Johnson says in a paraphrase Chalmers Johnson and nemesis we don't have the military-industrial complex we are a military-industrial complex and that that's so deeply embedded in every precinct and so contradictory is an imperial project so the Empire is so deep into our economy and our culture into our minds now there's really no going back that's what he thinks I can't accept that first of all nothing is that certain nothing is certain and though it's to greater certainty second where the stakes are this high that it's worth struggling very hard and struggling how I'll mention one way that apply or it can generalize it as though if some of you have read my article in Harper's last October you can see it on my website Elysburg Harper's article asked the theme of that

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Harper's article asked the theme of that is I believe that people who know of the plans for catastrophe what they see is a catastrophic plan in Iran a new war or for that matter the continuation of this war but especially a new war which is easier to stop and one that's going on should consider doing what not what I did doing what I wish I had done years earlier in 1964-65 when I was in the Pentagon before I went to Vietnam as a member of the State Department for two years but when I was in the Pentagon and knew that Lyndon Johnson was lying to the public in every aspect of the war before the Tonkin Gulf Resolution and after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution I had those documents in my safe I wish I had done what Wayne Morris told me would have averted the war he was the one who voted against the Tonkin Gulf Resolution but there are only two at that point he said if you had given me those documents after I had put them out years later in nineteen seventy one he said if you'd given those to me at the time 1964 the Tonkin Gulf Resolution would never have gone come out of committee and if they had bypassed the committee and gone to the floor it would never have passed well that's a heavy burden to bear and I'm telling people Indian in the administration right now you don't have to bear that burden you do have an alternative and it might put you in prison now and it might

have put me in prison it's likely but even but now it's even more likely why not why should not an official be willing to risk prison to avert the deaths of uncountable numbers of Iranians Iraqis and American troops in ways that would decrease our security enormously as Iraq has decreased of

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enormously as Iraq has decreased of security why should not some of these people were in the military I was interact I was in Vietnam as a civilian but I used my marine training to go into combat to observe and I saw courage all around me everybody risking their lives for the orders for their teammates for whatever it was it was expected of them and they had all had it in them why could not an official be asked by you by us to be willing to risk their clearance their career their job these are not light things this is not something you do routinely you don't do it every time the government lives he wouldn't same government for a day or a week if that but when the lies involve this many lives in this catastrophe to our Constitution because I think in a war with Iran or the next 911 the Constitution and the Bill of Rights will go the way of the phy my Republican just be swept away in a day so this enormous emphasis on averting that and what's new for me is to apply the same standard to Congress when as Senator Durbin tells us I knew in 2002 everything that's come out since we were told the truth on the Intelligence Committee but I couldn't tell them because I had promised secrecy I'll end with his last thought they've all forgotten the oath that every member of Congress took that every member of the service took every civilian official took which is to protect and uphold the Constitution to defend and uphold the Constitution it's not an oath to the leader to the Fuehrer to the commander-in-chief to superior officers it is to the Constitution period now I don't think and I've discussed this with Krogh it ever occurred to us that there could be a conflict between that oath and our sense of loyalty to our boss to our agency to the to the government

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our agency to the to the government department to above all to the president how could there be a conflict well sir Ken there was I violated that oath every day every day that I held onto those documents in the Pentagon knowing that Congress had been lied to knowing that we were lying not only into a war but into an unwinnable wrongful war neo-colonial or hopeless endless and so forth I went along with that that's true of everybody in the Pentagon right now every congress person and as Bob Shear says the journalists who show it I've seen this in combat incredible courage in facing fire they don't wear a helmet because it interferes with their camera and Horst Faso used to see that all the time but back home a boss the stories get spiked the line comes they don't risk careers risk lives but not careers that's the theme that were raised in okay I'm saying it does go against our oath the Constitution that we take an oath to in the officials and that people here I invite you to take very seriously so long as we haven't gotten back to the Articles of Confederation but with the Constitution should be taken seriously I think that the people who wrote that and who earlier said that they would pledge their lives their honor their sacred honor their lives their fortunes and their sacred honor for a government without a king without a king we're right to do so it's right to take those risks now and all comes down to Iraq when I described a future that the Democrats are buying on to at this point well the least bad outcome is to keep in those bases and for this reason of that reason to ignore the fact that that is an indefinite illegal occupation of a country that does not want to be occupied and that will fire at us and divide Edie's forever as long as we're

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divide Edie's forever as long as we're there and I would say as a moral matter the United States by the lives we have lost and the lives we have taken we have bought no right we've gained no right to decide by fire and bombing who shall live and who shall govern in Iraq the United States must stop killing Iraqis you

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